

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPEAKS ON
US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF INTERVIEW
GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER VICE ADMIRAL OSCAR
ANTONIO MONTES TO REPORTED OF WEEKLY NEWS
MAGAZINE "SIETE DIAS":

QUOTE: ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES

Q. IN WHAT MEASURE DID THE TAKING OVER OF THE
PRESIDENCY BY JIMMY CARTER MODIFY THE
SCHEME OF CONTINENTAL RELATIONS,
CONSIDERING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS
POLICIES AND THOSE OF HIS TWO PREDECESSORS--
RICHARD NIXON AND GERALD FORD--WHO HAD GIVEN
BRAZIL UNCONTESTED PRIORITY IN THE SOUTHERN
CONE?

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A. LET ME MAKE, FIRST OF ALL, A DOGMATIC--IF YOU WISH--
CLARIFICATION. THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY OF A
COUNTRY IS BASED ON ITS NEED TO ASSOCIATE WITH
THE REST OF THE WORLD; THUS EACH NATION CREATES ITS
OWN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND ADOPTS THROUGHOUT
THE YEARS DEFINITE RELATIONSHIPS. THIS POLICY, AS
I MENTIONED BEFORE REFERRING TO OUR OWN COUNTRY,

IS FREQUENTLY AFFECTED BY INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS--
IN THIS CASE PRESIDENTS COMING FROM DIFFERENT
POLITICAL PARTIES--BUT THE BASIC TENDENCIES WHICH
BACK THE NATIONAL INTEREST ARE NEVER RADICALLY
MODIFIED. FOR THAT REASON ONE COULD NEVER SPEAK OF
SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS

3. QUOTE: HUMAN RIGHTS

Q. REFERRING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF
THE MEETING IN CARACAS BETWEEN PRESIDENT VIDELA AND
TERENCE TODMAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
INTERAMERICAN AFFAIRS?

A. IN THAT OPPORTUNITY LT. GEN. VIDELA EXPLAINED THE
GOVERNMENT'S BASIC POSITION, ITS PROJECTS AND
OBJECTIVES IN DIFFERENT SPHERES, SO THAT MR. TODMAN
COULD GAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE
ARGENTINE REALITY.

Q. THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARGENTINA ON THE PROBLEM OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IS DIMINISHING IN PRESSURE AND
INTENSITY?

A. NO. THE AMERICAN POLICY IS VERY CLEAR IN THAT
RESPECT AND THE ARGENTINE POSITION IS VERY CLEAR
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ALSO, I BELIEVE, AFTER THE MEETING OF THE OAS IN
GRANADA. NEVERTHELESS, I UNDERSTAND THAT A BETTER
KNOWLEDGE OF OUR COUNTRY AND OF THE ARGENTINE
SITUATION ON THE PART OF THE US, WHICH COULD BE
OBTAINED FROM THE VISIT OF TERENCE TODMAN AND FROM
THE POSSIBLE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
CYRUS VANCE, IS GOING TO REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY THE
PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA ON THIS SUBJECT.

END QUOTE

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